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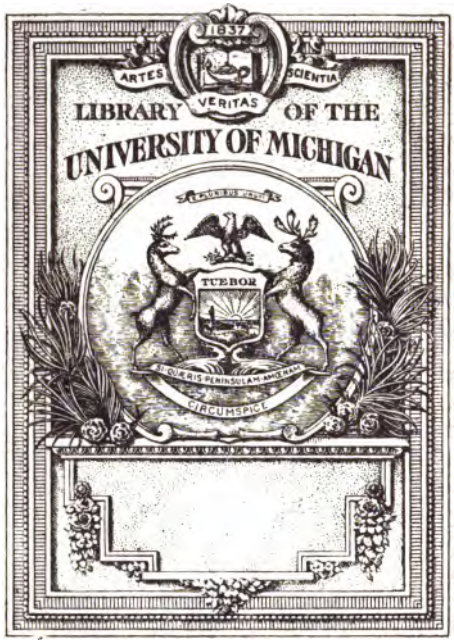

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THE DRUMMOND YEAR BOOK

FROM

HENRY DRUMMOND

ARRANGED BY

ADA L. SUTTON

PUBLISHED BY
THE MERRIAM COMPANY
67 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK

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BY

ADA L. SUTTON.

C. J. PETERS & SON,
TYPE-SETTERS AND ELECTROTYPERS,
145 HIGH ST., BOSTON.

6-19-10. m.d.

TO

MY DARLING BABY

Edith

THIS LITTLE BOOK IS LOVINGLY
DEDICATED BY HER

MOTHER.

323040

Introduction.

THE author from whose works these selections have been made, requires no word of mine to introduce him to the public. Henry Drummond has already achieved a world-wide celebrity.

Should this little volume lead some one to a deeper study of his wonderful lectures, perchance to the desire for a nobler life, the labor shall not have been in vain.

ADA L. SUTTON.

JANUARY is here—
With eyes that keenly glow;
A frost-mailed warrior striding,
A shadowy steed of snow.

Edgar Fawcett.

Drummond Year Book.

January 1st.

To become like Christ is the only thing in the world worth caring for; the thing before which every ambition of man is folly, and all lower achievement vain. Those only who make this quest the supreme desire and passion of their lives can even begin to hope to reach it.

The Changed Life.

January 2d.

No worse fate can befall a man in this world than to live and grow old alone, un-

loving and unloved. To be lost is to live in an unregenerate condition, loveless and unloved; and to be saved is to love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth already in God. For God is love.

The Greatest Thing in the World.

January 3d.

GROWTH is the work of time. But Life is not. That comes in a moment. At one moment it was dead; the next it lived. This is conversion, the "passing," as the Bible calls it, "from Death unto Life."

Natural Law, Biogenesis.

January 4th.

GREAT trials come at lengthened intervals, and we rise to breast them; but it is the petty friction of our every-day life with one another, the jar of business or of work,

the discord of the domestic circle, the collapse of our ambition, the crossing of our will, the taking down of our conceit, which makes inward peace impossible.

Pax Vobiscum.

January 5th.

THE Christian life is not a vague effort after righteousness — an ill-defined, pointless struggle for an ill-defined, pointless end. Religion is no dishevelled mass of aspiration, prayer, and faith. There is no more mystery in religion, as to its processes, than in biology. There is much mystery in biology. We know all but nothing of life yet, nothing of development. There is the same mystery in the spiritual life. But the great lines are the same, as decided, as luminous; and

the laws of natural and spiritual are the same, as unerring, as simple.

Natural Law, Conformity to Type.

January 6th.

NEVER let us think evil of men who do not see as we do. From the bottom of our hearts let us pity them, and let us take them by the hand and spend time and thought over them, and try to lead them to the true light.

How to Learn How.

January 7th.

REVELATION never volunteers anything that man could discover for himself — on the principle, probably, that it is only when he is capable of discovering it that he is capable of appreciating it.

Introduction to Natural Law.

January 8th.

No science contributes to another without receiving a reciprocal benefit. And even as the contribution of science to religion is the vindication of the naturalness of the supernatural, so the gift of religion to science is the demonstration of the supernaturalness of the natural. Thus, as the supernatural becomes slowly natural, will also the natural become slowly supernatural, until in the impersonal authority of law men everywhere recognize the authority of God.

Preface, Natural Law.

January 9th.

SPIRITUAL life . . . is the sum total of the functions which resist sin. The soul's atmosphere is the daily trial, circumstance,

and temptation of the world. And as it is life alone which gives the plant power to utilize the elements, and as without it they destroy it, so it is the spiritual life alone which gives the soul power to utilize temptation and trial; and without it they destroy the soul.

Natural Law Degeneration.

January 10th.

He made the lilies and He made me — both on the same broad principle. Both together, man and flower, He planted deep in the Providence of God; but as men are dull at studying themselves, He points to this companion phenomenon to teach us how to live a free and natural life — a life which God will unfold for us without our anxiety, as He unfolds the flower.

Natural Law, Growth.

January 11th.

THE spiritual world is simply the outermost segment, circle or circles, of the natural world. For purposes of convenience we separate the two just as we separate the animal world from the plant. But the animal world and the plant world are the same world. They are different parts of one environment. And the natural and spiritual are likewise one. The inner circles are called the natural, the outer the spiritual. And we call them spiritual simply because they are beyond us, or beyond a part of us.

Natural Law, Death.

January 12th.

IT is clear that no man can attempt to live both lives. To walk both in the flesh

and in the spirit is morally impossible. "No man," as Christ so often emphasized, "can serve two masters."

Natural Law, Mortification

January 13th.

LIFE is the cradle of eternity. As the man is to the animal in the slowness of his evolution, so is the spiritual man to the natural man. Foundations which have to bear the weight of an eternal life must be surely laid. Character is to wear forever; who will wonder or grudge that it cannot be developed in a day?

The Changed Life.

January 14th.

COMMUNION with God — can it be demonstrated in terms of science that there is a correspondence which will never break?

We do not appeal to science for such a testimony. We have asked for its conception of an eternal life; and we have received for answer that eternal life would consist in a correspondence which should never cease, with an environment which should never pass away. And yet what would science demand of a perfect correspondence that is not met by this, *the knowing* of God?

Natural Law, Eternal Life.

January 15th.

THE first step in religion is for man to feel his helplessness. Christ's first beatitude is to the poor in spirit. The condition of entrance into the spiritual kingdom is to possess the child-spirit — that state of mind combining at once the

profoundest helplessness with the most artless feeling of dependence.

Natural Law, Environment.

January 16th

We hear much of love to God. Christ spoke much of love to man. We make a great deal of peace with heaven. Christ made much of peace on earth. Religion is not a strange or added thing, but the inspiration of the secular life, the breathing of an eternal spirit through this temporal world.

The Greatest Thing in the World.

January 17th.

O preposterous and vain man, thou who couldst not make a finger-nail of thy body, thinkest thou to fashion this wonderful, mysterious, subtle soul of thine after

the ineffable Image? Wilt thou ever permit thyself *to be* conformed to the Image of the Son? Wilt thou, who canst not add a cubit to thy stature, submit *to be* raised by the type-life within thee to the perfect stature of Christ?

Natural Law, Conformity to Type.

January 18th.

THOU shalt evolve, thou shalt develop all thy faculties to the full; thou shalt attain to the highest conceivable perfection of thy race — and so perfect thy race — this is the first and greatest commandment of nature.

Natural Law, Semi-Parasitism.

January 19th.

THE Image of Christ that is forming within us — that is life's one charge. Let

every project stand aside for that. "Till Christ be formed" no man's work is finished, no religion crowned, no life has fulfilled its end. Is the infinite task begun? When, how, are we to be different? Time cannot change men. Christ can. Wherefore, *put on Christ.*

The Changed Life.

January 20th.

"If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him."

After all, it is by the general bent of a man's life, by his heart-impulses and secret desires, his spontaneous actions and abiding motives, that his generation is declared.

Natural Law, Classification.

January 21st.

THE world itself is about as good a world as might be. It has been long in the making, its furniture is all in, its laws are in perfect working order; and although wise men at various times have suggested improvements, there is on the whole a tolerably unanimous vote of confidence in things as they exist. The Divine Environment has little more to do for this planet as far as we can see, and so far as the existing generation is concerned.

Natural Law, Environment.

January 22d.

THE soul which has no correspondence with the spiritual environment, is spiritually dead. It may be that it never possessed the spiritual eye or the spiritual ear,

or a heart which throbbed in response to the love of God. If so, having never lived, it cannot be said to have died. But not to have these correspondences is to be in the state of death. To the spiritual world, to the Divine environment, it is dead — as a stone which has never lived is dead to the environment of the organic world.

Natural Law, Mortification.

January 23d.

THE soul, in its highest sense, is a vast capacity for God. It is like a curious chamber added on to being, and somehow involving being; a chamber with elastic and contractile walls, which can be expanded, with God as its guest, illimitably, but which, without God, shrinks and shrivels until every vestige of the

Divine is gone, and God's image is left without God's Spirit.

Natural Law, Degeneration.

January 24th.

No department of knowledge ever contributes to another without receiving its own again without usury. . . .

So must it be with science and religion. If the purification of religion comes from science, the purification of science, in a deeper sense, shall come from religion.

Introduction, Natural Law.

January 25th.

SPEND the time you have spent in sighing for fruits in fufilling the conditions of their growth. The fruits will come, must come.

Pax Vobiscum.

January 26th.

THERE lived once a young girl whose perfect grace of character was the wonder of those who knew her. She wore on her neck a gold locket which no one was ever allowed to open. One day, in a moment of unusual confidence, one of her companions was allowed to touch the spring, and learn the secret. She saw written these words: "*Whom having not seen, I love.*" That was the secret of her beautiful life. She had been changed into the same Image.

The Changed Life.

January 27th.

PATIENCE, kindness, generosity, humility, courtesy, unselfishness, good temper, guilelessness, sincerity — these make up the supreme gift, the stature of the perfect man. You will observe that all are in re-

lation to men, in relation to life, in relation to the known to-day and the near to-morrow, and not the unknown eternity.

The Greatest Thing in the World.

January 28th.

CHARACTER is a unity, and all the virtues must advance together to make the perfect man.

The Changed Life.

January 29th.

LOVE is *patience.* This is the normal attitude of love; love passive; love waiting to begin; not in a hurry; calm. . . . For love understands, and therefore waits.

The Greatest Thing in the World.

January 30th.

CHRIST never failed to distinguish between doubt and unbelief. Doubt is

can't believe; unbelief is *won't believe.* Doubt is honesty; unbelief is obstinacy. Doubt is looking for light; unbelief is content with darkness.

How to Learn How.

January 31st.

THERE is no mystery about happiness whatever. Put in the right ingredients and it must come out. He that abideth in Him will bring forth much fruit; and bringing forth much fruit is happiness.

Pax Vobiscum.

NAY, seek not under February's snows
For summer's crimson rose;
Its petals frail and fair
Were long since scattered on the perfumed air.
Content thee now with frost and hoary rime;
There are no roses in the winter time.

A. L. S.

February 1st.

WHETHER we like it or not, we live in glass houses. The mind, the memory, the soul, is simply a vast chamber panelled with looking-glass. And upon this miraculous arrangement and endowment depends the capacity of mortal souls to "reflect the character of the Lord."

The Changed Life.

February 2d.

THE best apologetic for Christianity is a Christian.

How to Learn How.

February 3d.

THE well-defined spiritual life is not only the highest life, but it is also the most easily lived. The whole is more easily carried than the half. It is the man who

tries to make the best of both worlds who makes nothing of either. And he who seeks to serve two masters misses the benediction of both.

Natural Law, Mortification.

February 4th.

You cannot love to order. You can only look at the lovely object, and fall in love with it, and grow into likeness to it. And so look at this perfect character, this perfect life. Look at the great sacrifice as He laid down Himself, all through life, and upon the Cross of Calvary; and you must love Him. And loving Him, you must become like Him.

The Greatest Thing in the World.

February 5th.

Do not grudge the hand that is moulding the still too shapeless image within you. I

is growing more beautiful, though you see it not, and every touch of temptation may add to its perfection. Therefore keep in the midst of life. Do not isolate yourself. Be among men, and among things, and among troubles and difficulties and obstacles.

The Greatest Thing in the World.

February 6th.

NOTHING that happens in this world happens by chance. God is a God of order. Everything is arranged upon definite principles and never at random.

Pax Vobiscum.

February 7th.

HE who has taken his stand, who has drawn a boundary line, sharp and deep, about his religious life, who has marked

off all beyond as forever forbidden ground to him, finds the yoke easy and the burden light. For this forbidden environment comes to be as if it were not. His faculties, falling out of correspondence, slowly lose their sensibilities. And the balm of death numbing his lower nature releases him for the scarce disturbed communion of a higher life. So even here to die is gain.

Natural Law, Mortification.

February 8th.

Love itself can never be defined. Light is a something more than the sum of its ingredients, — a glowing, dazzling, tremulous ether. And love is something more than all its elements, — a palpitating, quivering, sensitive living thing.

The Greatest Thing in the World.

February 9th.

THE Christian is a unique phenomenon. You cannot account for him, and if you could he would not be a Christian.

Natural Law, Growth.

February 10th.

IT is well to remember that we are to give our bodies a living sacrifice — not a half-dead sacrifice, as some people seem to imagine.

How to Learn How.

February 11th.

IT is quite erroneous to suppose that science ever overthrows faith, if by that is implied that any natural truth can oppose successfully any single spiritual truth. Science cannot overthrow faith; but it shakes it.

Preface, Natural Law.

February 12th.

A RELIGION of effortless adoration may be a religion for an angel, but never for a man. Not in the contemplative, but in the active, lies true hope; not in rapture, but in reality, lies true life; not in the realm of ideals, but among tangible things, is man's sanctification wrought.

The Changed Life.

February 13th.

IF God is adding to our spiritual stature, unfolding the new nature within us, it is a mistake to keep twitching at the petals with our coarse fingers. . . . If God is spending work upon a Christian, let him be still and know that it is God. And if he wants work he will find it there — in the being still.

Natural Law, Growth.

February 14th.

It is the beautiful work of Christianity everywhere to adjust the burdens of life to those who bear it, and them to it. It has a perfectly miraculous gift of healing. Without doing any violence to human nature, it sets it right with life, harmonizing it with all surrounding things, and restoring those who are jaded with the fatigue and dust of the world to a new grace of living.

Pax Vobiscum.

February 15th.

"Talent develops itself in solitude, character in the stream of life." Talent develops itself in solitude — the talent of prayer, of faith, of meditation, of seeing the unseen; character grows in the stream

of the world's life. That chiefly is where men are to learn love.

The Greatest Thing in the World.

February 16th.

THE recognition of the ideal is the first step in the direction of conformity. But let it be clearly observed that it is but a step. There is no vital connection between merely seeing the ideal and being conformed to it. Thousands admire Christ who never become Christians.

Natural Law, Conformity to Type.

February 17th.

CHRIST is the source of Joy to men in the sense in which he is the source of Rest. His people share His life, and therefore share its consequences; and one of these is joy.

Pax Vobiscum.

February 18th.

THE Christian life is the only life that will ever be completed. Apart from Christ the life of man is a broken pillar, the race of man an unfinished pyramid. One by one in sight of eternity all human ideals fall short; one by one before the open grave all hopes dissolve.

Natural Law, Conformity to Type.

February 19th.

AN altar of some sort men must have — God, or nature, or law. But the anguish of atheism is only a negative proof of man's incompleteness. A witness more overwhelming is the prayer of the Christian.

Natural Law, Environment.

February 20th.

THE solution of the problem of sanctification is compressed into a sentence: reflect the character of Christ and you will become like Christ.

The Changed Life.

February 21st.

THE breath of God, blowing where it listeth, touches with its mystery of life the dead souls of men; bears them across the bridgeless gulf between the natural and the spiritual, between the spiritually inorganic and the spiritually organic; endows them with its own high qualities, and develops within them these new and secret faculties by which those who are born again are said to see the kingdom of God.

Natural Law, Biogenesis.

February 22d.

MEN can be to other men as the shadow of a great rock in a thirsty land. Much more Christ; much more Christ as Perfect Man; much more still as Saviour of the world.

Pax Vobiscum.

February 23d.

MANY men would be religious if they knew where to begin; many would be more religious if they knew where it would end. It is not indifference that keeps some men from God, but ignorance. "Good Master, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" is still the deepest question of the age.

Natural Law, Eternal Life.

February 24th.

A RELIGION without mystery is an absurdity.

Natural Law, Biogenesis.

February 25th.

INSTEAD of having learned to pray, the ecclesiastical parasite becomes satisfied with being prayed for. His transactions with the Eternal are effected by commission. His work for Christ is done by a paid deputy. His whole life is a prolonged indulgence in the bounties of the church, and surely — in some cases at least the crowning irony — he sends for the minister when he lies down to die.

Natural Law, Parasitism.

February 26th.

UNDER the right conditions it is as natural for character to become beautiful as for a flower; and if on God's earth there is not some machinery for effecting it, the supreme gift to the world has been forgotten.

The Changed Life.

February 27th.

THE goal of the organisms of the spiritual world is nothing less than this, — to be "holy as He is holy, and pure as He is pure." And by the Law of Conformity to Type, their final perfection is secured. The inward nature must develop out according to its type, until the consummation of oneness with God is reached.

Natural Law, Classification.

February 28th.

THE world is not a play-ground; it is a schoolroom. Life is not a holiday, but an education. And the one eternal lesson for us all is *how better we can love.*

The Greatest Thing in the World.

MARCH will bring
The primrose by the brook, and all the wide
Green spaces of the forests glorified
With scent and singing.

March 1st.

NOTHING is so invisible to most men as transparency.

Natural Law, Conformity to Type.

March 2d.

To concentrate upon a few great correspondences, to oppose to the death the perpetual petty larceny of our lives by trifles — these are the conditions for the highest and happiest life. It is only limitation which can secure the illimitable.

Natural Law, Mortification.

March 3d.

IF the amount of energy lost in trying to grow were spent in fulfilling rather the conditions of growth, we should have many more cubits to show for our stature.

Natural Law, Growth.

March 4th.

THERE are people who go about the world looking out for slights; and they are necessarily miserable, for they find them at every turn, especially the imaginary ones. One has the same pity for such men as for the very poor. They are the morally illiterate. They have had no real education, for they have never learned how to live.

Pax Vobiscum.

March 5th.

No single fact in science has ever discredited a fact in religion.

Introduction, Natural Law.

March 6th.

How many prodigals are kept out of the kingdom of God by the unlovely

characters of those who profess to be inside!

The Greatest Thing in the World.

March 7th.

THERE are some men and some women in whose company we are always at our best. While with them we cannot think mean thoughts or speak ungenerous words. Their mere presence is elevation, purification, sanctity. All the best stops in our nature are drawn out by their intercourse, and we find a music in our souls that was never there before.

The Changed Life.

March 8th.

MEN look at truth, at different bits of it, and they see different things of course, and they are very apt to imagine that the

thing which they have seen is the whole affair — the whole thing. In reality, we can only see a very little bit at a time; and we must, I think, learn to believe that other men can see bits of truth as well as ourselves.

How to Learn How.

March 9th.

PROBABLY the most of the difficulties of trying to live the Christian life arise from attempting to half live it.

Natural Law, Classification.

March 10th.

WE aspire to the top to look for rest. It lies at the bottom. Water rests only when it gets to the lowest place. So do men. Hence, be lowly.

Pax Vobiscum.

March 11th.

JUST because God worketh in him, as the evidence and triumph of it, the true child of God works out his own salvation — works it out having really received it — not as a light thing, a superfluous labor, but with fear and trembling, as a reasonable and indispensable service.

Natural Law, Semi-Parasitism.

March 12th.

HALF the world is on the wrong scent in the pursuit of happiness. They think it consists in having and getting, and in being served by others. It consists in giving and in serving others. "He that would be great among you," said Christ, "let him serve."

The Greatest Thing in the World.

March 13th.

THE temporal is the husk and framework of the eternal, and thoughts can be uttered only through things.

Introduction, Natural Law.

March 14th.

THE impression of God is kept up by experience, not by logic.

How to Learn How.

March 15th.

THE amount of spiritual longing in the world, — in the hearts of unnumbered thousands of men and women in whom we should never suspect it; among the wise and thoughtful; among the young and gay, who seldom assuage and never betray their thirst, — this is one of the most wonderful and touching facts of life. It

is not more heart that is needed, but more light; not more force, but a wiser direction to be given to very real energies already there.

Pax Vobiscum.

March 16th.

While growth is a slow and gradual process, the change from death to life, alike in the natural and spiritual spheres, is the work of a moment. Whatever the conscious hour of the second birth may be, —in the case of an adult it is probably defined by the first real victory over sin,— it is certain that on biological principles the real turning-point is literally a moment.

Natural Law, Mortification.

March 17th.

The way of teaching humility is generally by humiliation. There is probably

no other school for it. When a man enters himself as a pupil in such a school it means a very great thing. There is much rest there, but there is also much work.

Pax Vobiscum.

March 18th.

NATURE never provides for man's wants in any direction, bodily, mental, or spiritual, in such a form as that he can simply accept her gifts automatically. She puts all the mechanical powers at his disposal — but he must make his lever.

Natural Law, Parasitism.

March 19th.

THE sneer at the godly man for his imperfections is ill-judged. A blade is a small thing. At first it grows very near the earth. It is often soiled and crushed

and downtrodden. But it is a living thing. The great dead stone beside it is more imposing; only it will never be anything else than a stone. But this small blade — *it doth not yet appear what it shall be.*

Natural Law, Growth.

March 20th.

You will find as you look back upon your life that the moments that stand out, the moments when you have really lived, are the moments when you have done things in a spirit of love.

The Greatest Thing in the World.

March 21st.

The final test of religion is not religiousness, but Love.

The Greatest Thing in the World.

March 22d.

MAKE Christ your most constant companion. . . . Be more under His influence than under any other influence. Ten minutes spent in His society every day, ay, two minutes, if it be face to face, and heart to heart, will make the whole day different.

The Changed Life.

March 23d.

THE true environment of the moral life is God. Here conscience wakes. Here kindles love. Duty here becomes heroic, and that righteousness begins to live which alone is to live forever.

Natural Law, Death.

March 24th.

"HE that hath the Son of God hath Life, and he that hath not the Son hath

not Life." This, as we take it, defines the correspondence which is to bridge the grave. This is the clew to the nature of the Life that lies at the back of the spiritual organism. And this is the true solution of the mystery of Eternal Life.

Natural Law, Eternal Life.

March 25th.

THIS is what Christianity is for — to teach men the art of life. And its whole curriculum lies in one word, "Learn of Me."

Pax Vobiscum.

March 26th.

BETTER a little faith dearly won, better launched alone on the infinite bewilderment of Truth, than perish on the splendid plenty of the richest creeds.

Natural Law, Parasitism.

March 27th.

NEGLECT does more for the soul than make it miss salvation. It despoils it of its capacity for salvation. Degeneration in the spiritual sphere involves primarily the impairing of the faculties of salvation, and ultimately the loss of them. It really means that the very soul itself becomes piecemeal destroyed, until the very capacity for God and righteousness is gone.

Natural Law, Degeneration.

March 28th.

BE not deceived. The words which all of us shall one day hear, sound not of theology, but of life; not of churches and saints, but of the hungry and the poor; not of creeds and doctrines, but of shelter and clothing; not of Bibles and prayer-

books, but of cups of cold water in the name of Christ.

The Greatest Thing in the World.

March 29th.

TRUE, a man will often have to wrestle with his God — but not for growth. The Christian life is a composed life. The Gospel is Peace.

Natural Law, Growth.

March 30th.

THE natural life not less than the eternal is the gift of God. But life in either case is the beginning of growth, and not the end of grace. To pause where we should begin, to retrograde where we should advance, to seek a mechanical security that we may cover inertia and find a wholesale salvation in which there

is no personal sanctification — this is Parasitism.

Natural Law, Semi-Parasitism.

March 31st.

Love is not a thing of enthusiastic emotion. It is a rich, strong, manly, vigorous expression of the whole round Christian character — the Christ-like nature in its fullest development.

The Greatest Thing in the World.

My regret
Becomes an April violet,
And buds and blossoms like the rest.

Tennyson.

April 1st.

MAN struggles to grow himself. He makes the church into a workshop, when God meant it to be a beautiful garden. And even in his closet, where only should reign silence, — a silence as of the mountains whereon the lilies grow, — is heard the roar and tumult of machinery.

Natural Law, Growth.

April 2d.

WHAT is mystery to many men, what feeds their worship, and at the same time spoils it, is that area around all great truth which is really capable of illumination, and into which every earnest mind is permitted and commanded to go with a light.

Natural Law, Biogenesis.

April 3d.

EVERY character has an inward spring: let Christ be it. Every action has a key-note: let Christ set it.

The Changed Life.

April 4th.

THE Incarnation is the life revealing the type. . . . But why should God be revealed? Why, indeed, but for man? Why but that "beholding as in a glass the glory of the Only Begotten we should be changed into the same Image"?

Natural Law, Conformity to Type.

April 5th.

CHRISTIANITY marks the advent of what is simply a new kingdom. It is, in the conception of its Founder, a kingdom for which all its adherents must henceforth

exclusively live and work, and which opens its gates alone upon those who, having counted the cost, are prepared to follow it if need be to the death.

Natural Law, Classification.

April 6th.

THE popular impression is that a man, to be what is called lost, must be an open and notorious sinner. He must be one who has abandoned all that is good and pure in life, and sown to the flesh with all his might and main. But this principle goes further. It says simply, "If we neglect."

Natural Law, Degeneration.

April 7th.

THE irreligious man's correspondences are concentrated upon himself. He worships himself. Self-gratification rather

than self-denial; independence rather than submission — these are the rules of life, and this is at once the poorest and the commonest form of idolatry.

Natural Law, Death.

April 8th.

FROM time to time the taunt is flung at religion that the future life of Christianity is simply a prolonged existence, an eternal monotony, a blind and indefinite continuance of being. The Bible never could commit itself to any such empty platitude, nor could Christianity ever offer to the world a hope so colorless.

Natural Law, Eternal Life.

April 9th.

To examine ourselves is good, but useless unless we also examine environment.

To bewail our weakness is right, but not remedial. The cause must be investigated as well as the result.

Natural Law, Environment.

April 10th.

No form of vice, not worldliness, not greed of gold, not drunkenness itself, does more to un-Christianize society than evil temper.

The Greatest Thing in the World.

April 11th.

THE test of spirituality is that you cannot tell whence it cometh or whither it goeth. If you can tell, if you can account for it on philosophical principles, on the doctrine of influence, on a favorable environment, it is not growth.

Natural Law, Growth.

April 12th.

A MAN does not give up medicine because there are quack doctors, and no man has a right to give up his Christianity because there are spurious or inconsistent Christians.

How to Learn How.

April 13th.

No man is called to a life of self-denial for its own sake. It is in order to gain a compensation which, though sometimes difficult to see, is always real and always proportionate.

Natural Law, Mortification.

April 14th.

CHRIST never said much in mere words about the Christian graces. He lived them; He was them. Yet we do not merely copy

Him. We learn His art by living with Him, like the old apprentices with their masters.

Pax Vobiscum.

April 15th.

You cannot cut and dry truth. You cannot accept truth ready-made without it ceasing to nourish the soul as truth. You cannot live on theological forms without becoming a parasite and ceasing to be a man.

Natural Law, Parasitism.

April 16th.

Whatever rest is provided by Christianity for the children of God, it is certainly never contemplated that it should supersede personal effort. And any rest which ministers to indifference is immoral

and unreal—it makes parasites and not men.

Natural Law, Semi-Parasitism.

April 17th.

THROUGH whatever media it reaches us, all true joy and gladness find their source in Christ.

Pax Vobiscum.

April 18th.

THE religion of Jesus has probably always suffered more from those who have misunderstood than from those who have opposed it.

Natural Law, Biogenesis.

April 19th.

NOTHING is a hardship to Love, and nothing is hard. I believe that Christ's yoke is easy. Christ's "yoke" is just His

way of taking life. And I believe it is an easier way than any other. I believe it is a happier way than any other.

The Greatest Thing in the World.

April 20th.

I WOULD not rob a man of his problems, nor would I have another man rob me of my problems. They are the delight of life, and the whole intellectual world would be stale and unprofitable if we knew everything.

How to Learn How.

April 21st.

THE ceaseless chagrin of a self-centred life can be removed at once by learning meekness and lowliness of heart. He who learns them is forever proof against it. He lives henceforth a charmed life.

Pax Vobiscum.

April 22d.

THE miser does not possess gold; gold possesses him. But the meek possess it. "The meek," said Christ, "inherit the earth." They do not buy it; they do not conquer it; but they inherit it.

Pax Vobiscum.

April 23d.

As the branch ascends, and the bud bursts, and the fruit reddens under the co-operation of influences from the outside air, so man rises to the higher stature under invisible pressure from without.

The Changed Life.

April 24th.

THE whole difference between the Christian and the moralist lies here. The Chris-

tian works from the centre, the moralist from the circumference. The one is an organism, in the centre of which is planted by the living God a living germ. The other is a crystal, very beautiful it may be; but only a crystal — it wants the vital principle of growth.

Natural Law, Growth.

April 25th.

He that would be happy, let him remember that there is but one way, — it is more blessed, it is more happy, to give than to receive.

The Greatest Thing in the World.

April 26th.

One little weakness, we are apt to fancy, all men must be allowed; and we even claim a certain indulgence for that

apparent necessity of nature which we call our besetting sin. Yet to break with the lower environment at all, to many, is to break at this single point.

Natural Law, Mortification.

April 27th.

In will-power, in mere spasms of earnestness, there is no salvation. Struggle, effort, even agony, have their place in Christianity, as we shall see; but this is not where they come in.

The Changed Life.

April 28th.

The sifting of the correspondences is done by nature. This is its last and greatest contribution to mankind. Over the mouth of the grave the perfect and the imperfect submit to their final separation.

Each goes to its own — earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust, spirit to spirit.

Natural Law, Eternal Life.

April 29th.

NATURE is not more natural to my body than God is to my soul.

Natural Law, Environment.

April 30th.

LIFE is the finest of the fine arts: it has to be learned with lifelong patience; and the years of our pilgrimage are all too short to master it triumphantly.

Pax Vobiscum.

It is not growing like a tree
In bulk, doth make man better be,
Or standing long an oak, three hundred year,
To fall a log at last, dry, bald, and sere.

A lily of a day
Is fairer far in May,
Although it fall and die that night—
It was the plant and flower of light.
In small proportions we just beauties see,
And in short measure life may perfect be.

Ben Jonson.

May 1st.

ALL thorough work is slow; all true development by minute, slight, and insensible metamorphoses. The higher the structure, moreover, the slower the progress.

The Changed Life.

May 2d.

THERE is a little preliminary that the astronomer has to do before he can make his observation. He has to take the cap off his telescope. Many a man thinks he is looking at truth when he is only looking at the cap.

How to Learn How.

May 3d.

TRUTH is not the product of the intellect alone; it is the product of the whole

nature. The body is engaged in it, and the mind and the soul.

How to Learn How.

May 4th.

I DO not say, remember, that the Christian life to every man, or to any man, can be a bed of roses. No educational process can be this. And perhaps if some men knew how much was involved in the simple "learn" of Christ, they would not enter his school with so irresponsible a heart. For there is not only much to learn, but much to unlearn.

Pax Vobiscum.

May 5th.

MEN sigh for the wings of a dove, that they may fly away and be at rest. But

flying away will not help us. The kingdom of God is *within you.*

Pax Vobiscum.

May 6th.

LOVE begets love. It is a process of induction.

The Greatest Thing in the World.

May 7th.

CREEDS are human versions of divine truths. And we do not ask a man to accept all the creeds, any more than we ask him to accept all the Christians. We ask him to accept Christ, and the facts about Christ and the words of Christ.

How to Learn How.

May 8th.

WE have truth in nature as it came from God. And it has to be read with the same

unbiassed mind, the same open eye, the same faith, and the same reverence, as all other revelation.

Preface, Natural Law.

May 9th.

A PHOTOGRAPH prints from the negative only while exposed to the sun. While the artist is looking to see how it is getting on he simply stops the getting on. Whatever of wise supervision the soul may need, it is certain it can never be over-exposed, or that, being exposed, anything else in the world can improve the result or quicken it. The creation of a new heart, the renewing of a right spirit, is an omnipotent work of God. Leave it to the Creator. "He who hath begun a good work in you will perfect it unto that day."

May 10th.

As a mere spectacle the universe to-day discloses a beauty so transcendent that he who disciplines himself by scientific work finds it an overwhelming reward simply to behold it.

Instruction, Natural Law.

May 11th.

You will give yourselves to many things. Give yourselves first to Love. Hold things in their proportion. Let at least the first great object of our lives be to achieve the character of Christ, which is built round Love.

The Greatest Thing in the World.

May 12th.

There is no spontaneous generation in religion any more than in nature. Christ

is the source of life in the spiritual world; and he that hath the Son hath life, and he that hath not the Son, whatever else he may have, hath not life.

Natural Law, Biogenesis.

May 13th.

Do not think that nothing is happening because you do not see yourself grow, or hear the whir of the machinery. All great things grow noiselessly. You can see a mushroom grow, but never a child.

The Changed Life.

May 14th.

How shall we escape if we neglect? The answer is, we cannot. In the nature of things we cannot. We cannot escape any more than a man can escape drowning who falls into the sea, and has neglected

to learn to swim. In the nature of things he cannot escape, — nor can he escape who has neglected the great salvation.

Natural Law, Degeneration.

May 15th.

APART even from the parable of the lily, the failures of the past have taught most of us the folly of disquieting ourselves in vain, and we have given up the idea that by taking thought we can add a cubit to our stature.

Natural Law, Growth.

May 16th.

MEN may not know how fruits grow, but they do know that they cannot grow in five minutes. Some lives have not even a stalk on which fruits could hang, even if they did grow in five minutes. Some

have never planted one sound seed of joy in all their lives; and others, who may have planted a germ or two, have lived so little in sunshine that they never could come to maturity.

Pax Vobiscum.

May 17th.

JOY is as much a matter of cause and effect as pain. No one can get joy by merely asking for it. It is one of the ripest fruits of the Christian life, and, like all fruits, must be grown.

Pax Vobiscum.

May 18th.

MAN is a mass of correspondences; and because of these, because he is alive to countless objects and influences to which

lower organisms are dead, he is the most living of all creatures.

Natural Law, Death.

May 19th.

LIVE after Christ, in His Spirit, as in His Presence, and it is difficult to think what more you can do.

The Changed Life.

May 20th.

IF the Christian is to "live unto God," he must "die unto sin." If he does not kill sin, sin will inevitably kill him. Recognizing this, he must set himself to reduce the number of his correspondences — retaining and developing those which lead to a fuller life, unconditionally withdrawing those which in any way tend in an opposite direction.

Natural Law, Mortification.

May 21st.

THIS law, that the degree of life varies with the degree of correspondence, holds to the minutest details throughout the entire range of living things. Life becomes fuller and fuller, richer and richer, more and more sensitive, and responsive to an ever-widening environment, as we rise in the chain of being.

Natural Law, Eternal Life.

May 22d.

To seize continuously the opportunity of more and more perfect adjustment to better and higher conditions, to balance some inward evil with some purer influence acting from without — these are the secrets of a well-ordered and successful life.

Natural Law, Environment.

May 23d.

LOVE is an *effect.* And only as we fulfil the right condition can we have the effect produced.

The Greatest Thing in the World.

May 24th.

CONTEMPLATE the love of Christ, and you will love. Stand before that mirror, reflect Christ's character, and you will be changed into the same image, from tenderness to tenderness. There is no other way.

The Greatest Thing in the World.

May 25th.

HOWEVER active the intellectual or moral life may be, from the point of view of this other life it is dead. That which is flesh is flesh. It wants, that is to say, the kind

of life which constitutes the difference between the Christian and the not-a-Christian. It has not yet been "born of the Spirit."

Natural Law, Conformity to Type.

May 26th.

Our churches overflow with members who are mere consumers. Their interest in religion is purely parasitic. Their only spiritual exercise is the automatic one of imbibition, the clergyman being depended on every Sunday for at least a week's supply.

Natural Law, Parasitism.

May 27th.

I say that the men who are perplexed, the men who come to you with serious and

honest difficulties, are the best men. They are men of intellectual honesty, and cannot allow themselves to be put to rest by words, or phrases, or traditions, or theologies, but who must get to the bottom of things for themselves.

How to Learn How.

May 28th.

WHAT, then, is the deeper distinction drawn by Christianity? What is the essential difference between the Christian and the not-a-Christian, between the spiritual beauty and the moral beauty? It is the distinction between the organic and the inorganic. Moral beauty is the product of the natural man, spiritual beauty of the spiritual man.

Natural Law, Classification.

May 29th.

I DO not think we ourselves are aware how much our religious life is made up of phrases; how much of what we call Christian experiences is only a dialect of the churches, a mere religious phraseology, with almost nothing behind it in what we really feel and know.

Pax Vobiscum.

May 30th.

WHAT a noble gift it is, the power of playing upon the souls and wills of men, and rousing them to lofty purposes and noble deeds!

The Greatest Thing in the World.

May 31st.

CHRISTIANITY possesses the noblest words in the language; its literature overflows with terms expressive of the greatest and happiest moods which can free the soul of man, — Rest, Joy, Peace, Faith, Love, Light.

Pax Vobiscum.

'Tis heaven alone that is given away,
'Tis only God may be had for the asking;
There is no price set on the lavish summer,
And June may be had by the poorest comer.

Lowell.

June 1st.

PHILOSOPHY does well in proving that matter is a non-entity. We work with it as the mathematician with an x. The reality is alone the spiritual.

Introduction, Natural Law.

June 2d.

WHAT Christian experience wants is *thread*, a vertebral column, method. It is impossible to believe that there is no remedy for its unevenness and dishevelment, or that the remedy is a secret. The idea, also, that some few men, by happy chance or happier temperament, have acquired the secret, as if there were some sort of knack or trick of it, is wholly incredible. Religion must ripen its fruit for men of every temperament; and the way even into its highest heights must be

by a gateway through which the peoples of the world may pass.

Pax Vobiscum.

June 3d.

MORALITY, at the utmost, only develops the character in one or two directions. It may perfect a single virtue here and there, but it cannot perfect all.

Natural Law, Growth.

June 4th.

To copy virtues, one by one, has some what the same effect as eradicating the vices one by one; the temporary result is an overbalanced and incongruous character.

One sometimes finds Christians of this species, over-fed one side of their nature, but dismally thin and starved-looking on the other.

The Changed Life.

June 5th.

If one only of the channels of sin be obstructed, experience points to an almost certain overflow through some other part of the nature. Partial conversion is almost always accompanied by such moral leakage; for the pent-up energies accumulate to the bursting-point, and the last state of that soul may be worse than the first.

The Changed Life.

June 6th.

The natural man belongs essentially to this present order of things. He is endowed simply with a high quality of the natural animal life. But it is life of so poor a quality that it is not life at all. He that hath not the Son *hath not life.*

Natural Law, Biogenesis.

June 7th.

REALIZE it thoroughly: it is a methodical, not an accidental world.

Pax Vobiscum.

June 8th.

"LOVE is the fulfilling of the law." It is the rule for fulfulling all rules, the new commandment for keeping all the old commandments — Christ's one secret of the Christian life.

The Greatest Thing in the World.

June 9th.

CHARITY is only a little bit of Love, one of the innumerable avenues of Love; and there may even be, and there is, a great deal of charity without Love.

The Greatest Thing in the World.

June 10th.

THE soul that sinneth "it shall die," not necessarily because God passes sentence of death upon it, but because it cannot help dying. It has neglected "the functions which resist death," and has always been dying. The punishment is in its very nature.

Natural Law, Degeneration.

June 11th.

IT is no use proposing finely devised schemes, or going through general pious exercises, in the hope that somehow rest will come. The Christian life is not casual but causal. All nature is a standing protest against the absurdity of expecting to secure spiritual effects, or any effects, without the employment of appropriate causes.

Pax Vobiscum.

June 12th.

RESPECT doubt for its origin. It is an inevitable thing. It is not a thing to be crushed. It is a part of man as God made him. Heresy is truth in the making, and doubt is the prelude of knowledge.

How to Learn How.

June 13th.

WHAT we have correspondence with, that we call natural; what we have little or no correspondence with, that we call spiritual. But when the appropriate corresponding organism appears, that is, which can freely communicate with these outer circles, the distinction necessarily disappears. The spiritual to it becomes the outer circle of the natural.

Natural Law, Death.

June 14th.

HAVE you ever noticed how much of Christ's life was spent in doing kind things — in *merely* doing kind things? Run over it with that in view, and you will find that He spent a great proportion of His time simply in making people happy, in doing good turns to people.

The Greatest Thing in the World.

June 15th.

Now, the least experience of life will make it evident that a large class of sins can only be met, as it were, by suicide. The peculiar feature of death by suicide is that it is not only self-inflicted, but sudden. And there are many sins which must either be dealt with suddenly, or not at all.

Natural Law, Mortification.

June 16th.

"THE greatest thing," says some one, "a man can do for his Heavenly Father, is to be kind to some of his other children."

The Greatest Thing in the World.

June 17th.

IT is a good thing to think; it is a better thing to work; it is a better thing to do good.

How to Learn How.

June 18th.

UNINTERRUPTED correspondence with a perfect environment is eternal life according to science. To know God is to "correspond" with God. To correspond with God is to correspond with a Perfect

Environment. And the organism which attains to this, in the nature of things, must live forever.

Natural Law, Eternal Life.

June 19th.

All religious truths are doubtable. There is no absolute proof for any one of them. Even that fundamental truth, the existence of a God, no man can prove by reason.

How to Learn How.

June 20th.

Without distinction, without calculation, without procrastination, love. Lavish it upon the poor, where it is very easy; especially upon the rich, who often need it most; most of all upon our equals, where

it is very difficult, and for whom perhaps we each do least of all.

The Greatest Thing in the World.

June 21st.

And what is the spiritual environment? It is God. Without this, therefore, there is no life, no thought, no energy, nothing —"without Me ye can do nothing."

Natural Law, Environment.

June 22d.

The beauty of friendship is its infinity.

The Changed Life.

June 23d.

There is a difference between *trying to please* and *giving pleasure.* Give pleasure. Lose no chance of giving pleasure. For

that is the ceaseless and anonymous triumph of a truly loving spirit.

The Greatest Thing in the World.

June 24th.

When a man becomes a Christian the natural process is this: The Living Christ enters into his soul. Development begins. The quickening life seizes upon the soul, assimilates surrounding elements, and begins to fashion it. According to the great Law of Conformity to Type, this fashioning takes a specific form. It is that of the artist who fashions. And all through life this wonderful, mystical, glorious, yet perfectly definite, process goes on, "until Christ be formed" in it.

Natural Law, Conformity to Type.

June 25th.

GLORY, then, is not something intangible or ghostly or transcendental. If it were this how could Paul ask men to reflect it? Stripped of its physical enswathement it is beauty, moral and spiritual beauty — beauty infinitely real, infinitely exalted, yet infinitely near, and infinitely communicable.

The Changed Life.

June 26th.

WHEN Christ said He would give men rest, He meant simply that He would put them in the way of it. By no act of conveyance would or could He make over His own rest to them. He could give them His receipt for it. That was all.

Pax Vobiscum.

June 27th.

WE know but little now about the conditions of the life that is to come. But what is certain is that love must last.

The Greatest Thing in the World.

June 28th.

I SAY the final test of religion at that great day is not religiousness, but love; not what I have done, not what I have believed, not what I have achieved, but how I have discharged the common charities of life.

The Greatest Thing in the World.

June 29th.

EVERY organism has its own reaction upon nature, and the reaction of the spiritual organism upon the community must

be looked for. In the absence of any such reaction, in the absence of any token that it lived for a higher purpose, or that its real interests were those of the kingdom to which it professed to belong, we should be entitled to question its being in that kingdom.

Natural Law, Classification.

June 30th.

WHAT must one work at? What is that which if duly learned will find the soul of man in rest? Christ answers without the least hesitation. He specifies two things, — Meekness and Lowliness. "Learn of Me," He says, "for I am *meek* and *lowly* in heart."

Pax Vobiscum.

All through the languid July day
I catch the scent of new-mown hay.

Ella Wheeler.

July 1st.

THE correspondence of the spiritual man possesses the supernatural virtues of the Resurrection and the Life.

Here is a relation established with eternity. The passing years lay no limiting hand on it. Corruption injures it not. It survives death. It, and it only, will stretch beyond the grave, and be found inviolate —

"When the moon is old,
And the stars grow cold,
And the books of the Judgment-Day unfold."

Natural Law, Eternal Life.

July 2d.

EVERYTHING else in all our lives is transitory. Every other good is visionary. But the acts of love which no man knows

about, or can ever know about — they never fail.

The Greatest Thing in the World.

July 3d.

WHO is Christ? He who fed the hungry, clothed the naked, visited the sick. And where is Christ? Where? — whoso shall receive a little child in My name, receiveth Me. And who are Christ's? Every one that loveth is born of God.

The Greatest Thing in the World.

July 4th.

CHRIST'S yoke is simply His secret for the alleviation of human life. His prescription for the best and happiest method of living.

Pax Vobiscum.

July 5th.

WITH Browning, "I say that man was made to grow, not stop." Or, in the deeper words of an older book, "Whom He did foreknow, He also did predestinate . . . to be conformed to the image of His Son."

The Changed Life.

July 6th.

THE kingdom of God is not going to religious meetings, and hearing strange religious experiences; the kingdom of God is doing what is right—living at peace with all men, being filled with joy in the Holy Ghost.

"*First!*"

July 7th.

I HAVE seen almost all the beautiful things God has made; I have enjoyed al-

most every pleasure that He has planned for man, and yet as I look back I see standing out above all the life that has gone, four or five short experiences when the love of God reflected itself in some poor imitation, some small act of love of mine, and these seem to be the things which alone of all one's life abide.

The Greatest Thing in the World.

July 8th.

THE position we have been led to take up is not that the Spiritual Laws are analogous to the Natural Laws, but that *they are the same* laws. It is not a question of analogy, but of identity.

Introduction, Natural Law.

July 9th.

WHEN the experimental religion of a man, of a community, or of a nation, wanes, religion wanes—their idea of God grows indistinct, and that man, community, or nation, becomes infidel.

How to Learn How.

July 10th.

THANK God the Christianity of to-day is coming nearer the world's need! Live to help that on. Thank God men know better by a hair's-breadth what religion is, what God is, who Christ is, where Christ is!

The Greatest Thing in the World.

July 11th.

As memory scans the past, above and beyond all the transitory pleasures of life,

there leap forward those supreme hours when you have been enabled to do unnoticed kindness to those round about you —things too trifling to speak about, but which you feel have entered into your eternal life.

The Greatest Thing in the World.

July 12th.

"LEARN of Me, and ye shall *find* rest." Rest, that is to say, is not a thing that can be given, but a thing to be *acquired.* It comes not by an act, but by a process. It is not to be found in a happy hour, as one finds a treasure; but slowly, as one finds knowledge.

Pax Vobiscum.

July 13th.

LIFE is not one of the homeless forces which promiscuously inhabit space, or

which can be gathered like electricity from the clouds and dissipated back again into space. Life is definite and resident; and spiritual life is not a visit from a force, but a resident tenant in the soul.

Natural Law, Biogenesis.

July 14th.

CHRISTIANITY is a fine inoculation, a transfusion of healthy blood into an anæmic or poisoned soul. No fever can attack a perfectly sound body; no fever of unrest can disturb a soul which has breathed the air or learned the ways of Christ.

Pax Vobiscum.

July 15th.

EVERY soul is a Book of Judgment, and Nature, as a recording angel, marks there

every sin. As all will be judged by the great Judge some day, all are judged by Nature now. The sin of yesterday, as part of its penalty, has the sin of to-day. All follow us in silent retribution on our past, and go with us to the grave.

Natural Law, Degeneration.

July 16th.

RELIGION does not consist in negatives, in stopping this sin and stopping that. The perfect character can never be produced with the pruning-knife.

The Changed Life.

July 17th.

No man can become a saint in his sleep; and to fulfil the condition required demands a certain amount of prayer and meditation and time, just as improvement in any

direction, bodily or mental, requires preparation and care. Address yourselves to that one thing; at any cost have this transcendent character exchanged for yours.

The Greatest Thing in the World.

July 18th.

No physician of souls . . . has any prescription for spiritual growth. It is the question he is most often asked and most often answers wrongly. He may prescribe more earnestness, more prayer, more self-denial, or more Christian work. These are prescriptions for something, but not for growth. Not that they may not encourage growth; but the soul grows as the lily grows, without trying, without fretting, without ever thinking.

Natural Law, Growth.

July 19th.

If we cannot calculate to a certainty that the forces of religion will do their work, then is religion vain. And if we cannot express the law of these forces in simple words, then is Christianity not the world's religion but the world's conundrum.

The Changed Life.

July 20th.

And this is by far the best source of spiritual knowledge on every account — obedience to God, absolute sincerity and loyalty in following Christ. "If any man do His will he shall know."

How to Learn How.

July 21st.

"Love suffereth long and is kind; love envieth not; love vaunteth not itself."

Get these ingredients into your life. Then everything that you do is eternal. It is worth doing. It is worth giving time to.

The Greatest Thing in the World.

July 22d.

THOSE who are in communion with God live; those who are not are dead.

Natural Law, Death.

July 23d.

THE man who has no opinion of himself at all can never be hurt if others do not acknowledge him. Hence, be meek.

Pax Vobiscum.

July 24th.

MAN'S spiritual life consists in the number and fulness of his correspondences with God. In order to develop these

he may be constrained to insulate them, to enclose them from the other correspondences, to shut himself in with them. In many ways the limitation of the natural life is the necessary condition of the full enjoyment of the spiritual life.

Natural Law, Mortification.

July 25th.

LOVE must be eternal. It is what God is. On the last analysis, then, love is life. Love never faileth, and life never faileth as long as there is love.

The Greatest Thing in the World.

July 26th.

SOMETIMES when uncertain of a voice from its very loudness, we catch the missing syllable in the echo. In God and Nature we have Voice and Echo. When

I hear both I am assured. My sense of hearing does not betray me twice. I recognize the Voice in the Echo, the Echo makes me certain of the Voice; I listen and I know.

Natural Law, Eternal Life.

July 27th.

VERY few people have the opportunity to seek the kingdom of God at the end. Christ, knowing all that, knowing that religion was a thing for our life, not merely for our death-bed, has laid this command upon us now: "Seek *first* the kingdom of God."

"*First!*"

July 28th.

ONE of the aptest descriptions of a human being is that he is a mirror. . . . .

And all human intercourse is a seeing of reflections.

The Changed Life.

July 29th.

If events change men, much more persons. No man can meet another on the street without making some mark upon him. We say we exchange words when we meet; what we exchange is souls.

The Changed Life.

July 30th.

The universal language of the human soul has always been, "I perish with hunger." This is what fits it for Christ. There is a grandeur in this cry from the depths which makes its very unhappiness sublime.

Natural Law, Conformity to Type.

July 31st.

ETERNAL life also is to know God, and God is Love. This is Christ's own definition. Ponder it. "This is life eternal, that they might know Thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom Thou hast sent."

The Greatest Thing in the World.

THE purple fringe of the thistle blossom
  Fades into feathery white;
There is only a leaf on the river's bosom
  Where I saw a lily last night;
O August days, with your dreamy haze,
  How fleet ye are — and how bright.

A. L. S.

August 1st.

TRUTH in the Bible is a fountain. It is a diffused nutriment, so diffused that no one can put himself off with the form It is reached, not by thinking, but by doing. It is seen, discerned, not demonstrated. It cannot be bolted whole, but must be slowly absorbed into the system. Its vagueness to the mere intellect, its refusal to be packed into portable phrases, its satisfying unsatisfyingness, its vast atmosphere, its finding of us, its mystical hold of us—these are the tokens of its infinity.

Natural Law, Parasitism.

August 2d.

WE want to live forever for the same reason that we want to live to-morrow. Why do you want to live to-morrow? It

is because there is some one who loves you, and whom you want to see to-morrow, and be with and love back. There is no other reason why we should live on than that we love and are beloved.

The Greatest Thing in the World.

August 3d.

To love abundantly is to live abundantly, and to love forever is to live forever.

The Greatest Thing in the World.

August 4th.

Love should be the supreme thing — because it is going to last, because in the nature of things it is an eternal life. It is a thing that we are living now, not that we get when we die; that we shall have a

poor chance of getting when we die unless we are living now.

The Greatest Thing in the World.

August 5th.

But who is to define the limits of the spiritual? Even now it is very beautiful. Even as an embryo it contains some prophecy of its future glory. But the point to mark is that *it doth not yet appear what it shall be.*

Natural Law, Classification.

August 6th.

Friendship is a spiritual thing. It is independent of matter, or space, or time. That which I love in my friend is not that which I see. What influences me in my friend is not his body, but his spirit.

The Changed Life.

August 7th.

HEAVEN is only the *capital* of the kingdom of God; the Bible is the guide-book to it; the church is the weekly parade of those who belong to it. If you would turn to the seventeenth chapter of St. Luke, you will find out where the kingdom of God really is. "The kingdom of God is within you"—within *you.* The kingdom of God is *inside people.*

"*First!*"

August 8th.

CHRIST'S life outwardly was one of the most troubled lives that ever was lived. Tempest and tumult, tumult and tempest, the waves breaking over it all the time, till the worn body was laid in the grave. But the inner life was a sea of glass. The great calm was always there.

Pax Vobiscum.

August 9th.

No man knows what a man is till he has seen what a man can be without, and be withal a man. That is to say, no man knows how great man is till he has seen how small he has been once.

Tropical Africa.

August 10th.

If to live with men diluted to the millionth degree with the virtues of the Highest can exalt and purify the nature, what bounds can be set to the influence of Christ?

The Changed Life.

August 11th.

No one who knows the content of Christianity, or feels the universal need of a religion, can stand idly by while the

intellect of his age is slowly divorcing itself from it.

Preface, Natural Law.

August 12th.

He who is without expectation cannot fret if nothing comes to him. It is self-evident that these things are so. The lowly man and the meek man are really above all other men, above all other things. They dominate the world because they do not care for it.

Pax Vobiscum.

August 13th.

"I shall never rise to the point of view which wishes to 'raise' faith to knowledge. To me, the way of truth is to come through the knowledge of my ignorance to the submissiveness of faith,

and then, making that my starting-place, to raise my knowledge into faith."

Introduction, Natural Law.

August 14th.

When one attempts to sanctify himself by effort, he is trying to make his boat go by pushing against the mast. He is like a drowning man trying to lift himself out of the water by pulling at the hair of his own head. The one redeeming feature of the self-sufficient method is this — that those who try it find out almost at once that it will not gain the goal.

The Changed Life.

August 15th.

The spiritual life is the gift of the Living Spirit. The spiritual man is no

mere development of the natural man. He is a new creation born from above.

Natural Law, Biogenesis.

August 16th.

TAKE into your . . . sphere of labor that simple charm, and your lifework must succeed. You can take nothing greater, you need take nothing less. It is not worth while going if you take anything less. You may take every accomplishment, you may be braced for every sacrifice; but if you give your body to be burned, and have not love, it will profit you and the cause of Christ *nothing.*

The Greatest Thing in the World.

August 17th.

THERE is only one thing greater than happiness in the world, and that is holi-

ness, and it is not in our keeping; but what God has put in our power is the happiness of those about us, and that is largely to be secured by our being kind to them.

The Greatest Thing in the World.

August 18th.

I WONDER why it is that we are not all kinder than we are? How much the world needs it! How easily it is done! How instantaneously it acts! How infallibly it is remembered! How superabundantly it pays itself back! — for there is no debtor in the world so honorable, so superbly honorable, as Love.

The Greatest Thing in the World.

August 19th.

IF a man find the powers of sin furiously at work within him, dragging his whole

life downward to destruction, there is only one way to escape his fate — to take resolute hold of salvation, and be borne by it to the opposite goal.

Natural Law, Degeneration.

August 20th.

THE infinite desirability, the infinite difficulty of being good — the theme is as old as humanity. The man does not live from whose deeper being the same confession has not risen, or who would not give his all to-morrow if he could "close with the offer of becoming a better man."

The Changed Life.

August 21st.

VIOLENT efforts to grow are right in earnestness, but wholly wrong in principle.

There is but one principle of growth both for the natural and spiritual, for body and soul. And the principle of growing in grace is once more this, "Consider the lilies, *how they grow.*"

Natural Law, Growth.

August 22d.

If any man be simply willing to do His will, if he has an absolutely undivided mind about it — that man will know what truth is and know what falsehood is. A stranger will he not follow.

How to Learn How.

August 23d.

The Christian experiences are governed by law. Men, forgetting this, expect rest, joy, peace, faith, to drop into their souls like snow or rain. But in point of fact

they do not do so; and if they did they would no less have their origin in previous activities and be controlled by natural laws.

Pax Vobiscum.

August 24th.

THE gospel offers a man life. Never offer men a thimbleful of gospel. Do not offer them merely peace, or merely rest, or merely safety; tell them how Christ came to give men a more abundant life than they have — a life abundant in love, and therefore abundant in salvation for themselves and large in enterprise for the alleviation and redemption of the world.

The Greatest Thing in the World.

August 25th.

To be carnally minded is death. We do not picture the possessor of this carnal

mind as in any sense a monster. We have said he may be high-toned, virtuous, and pure. The plant is not a monster because it is dead to the voice of the bird; nor is he a monster who is dead to the voice of God. The contention at present simply is that he is *dead.*

Natural Law, Death.

August 26th.

We all reflecting as a mirror the character of Christ, are transformed into the same Image from character to character —from a poor character to a better one, from a better one to a little better still, from that to one still more complete, until by slow degrees the Perfect Image is attained.

The Changed Life.

August 27th.

It is the law of influence that we become like those whom we habitually admire. Men are all mosaics of other men.

The Changed Life.

August 28th.

Seek the kingdom of God *first*. *First*. Not many people do that. They put a little religion into their life — once a week, perhaps. They might just as well let it alone. It is not worth seeking the kingdom of God unless we seek it *first*.

"*First!*"

August 29th.

Theologies are human versions of divine truths, and hence the varieties of the versions and the inconsistencies of them.

How to Learn How.

August 30th.

CHRIST's invitation to the weary and heavy-laden is a call to begin life over again upon a new principle — upon His own principle. "Watch My way of doing things," He says. "Follow Me. Take life as I take it. Be meek and lowly, and you will find rest."

Pax Vobiscum.

August 31st.

WHERE love is, God is. He that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God. God is Love. Therefore *love.*

The Greatest Thing in the World.

THE gentian's bluest fingers
  Are curling in the sun;
In dusty pods the milkweed
  Its hidden silk has spun.

By all these lovely tokens
  September days are here,
With summer's best of weather
  And autumn's best of cheer.

Helen Hunt Jackson.

September 1st.

THE kingdom of God is the kingdom of brothers. It is a great society, founded by Jesus Christ, of all the people who try to be like Him, and live to make the world better and sweeter and happier.

"First!"

September 2d.

ALL fruits *grow* — whether they grow in soil or in the soul. No man can *make* things grow. He can *get them to grow* by arranging all the circumstances and fulfilling all the conditions. But the growing is done by God.

Pax Vobiscum.

September 3d.

LOVE is success, love is happiness, love is life. "Love," I say with Browning, "is energy of life."

The Greatest Thing in the World.

September 4th.

THE immortal soul must give itself to something that is immortal. And the only immortal things are these: "Now abideth faith, hope, love; but the greatest of these is love."

The Greatest Thing in the World.

September 5th.

THE eternal life, the life of faith, is simply the life of the higher vision. Faith is an attitude — a mirror set at the right angle.

The Changed Life.

September 6th.

THE real danger of mysticism is not making it broad enough.

The Changed Life.

September 7th.

THE only legitimate questions ore dare put to nature are those which concern universal human good and the divine interpretation of things.

Preface, Natural Law.

September 8th.

IT is only when we see what it was in Him, that we know what the word rest means. The eternal calm of an invulnerable faith; the repose of a heart set deep in God.

Pax Vobiscum.

September 9th.

THE effect of the introduction of law among the scattered phenomena of nature has simply been to make science, to trans-

form knowledge into eternal truth. The same crystallizing touch is needed in religion.

Preface, Natural Law.

September 10th.

God, the Eternal God, is Love. Covet therefore that everlasting gift, that one thing which it is certain is going to stand, that one coinage which will be current in the universe when all the other coinages of all the nations of the world shall be useless and unhonored.

The Greatest Thing in the World.

September 11th.

With nature as the symbol of all of harmony and beauty that is known to man, must we still talk of the supernatural, not as a convenient word, but as a different

order of world, an unintelligible world, where the Reign of Mystery supersedes the Reign of Law?

Introduction, Natural Law.

September 12th.

CHRISTIANITY is the infusion into the spiritual man of a new life, of a quality unlike anything else in nature. This constitutes the separate kingdom of Christ, and gives to Christianity alone, of all the religions of mankind, the strange mark of divinity.

Natural Law, Biogenesis.

September 13th.

ALL that is in the world, the lust of the eye, the lust of the flesh, and the pride of life, are but for a little while. Love

not the world, therefore. Nothing that it contains is worth the life and consecration of an immortal soul.

The Greatest Thing in the World.

September 14th.

SALVATION is a definite process. If a man refuse to submit himself to that process, clearly he cannot have the benefits of it. It may be mere carelessness or apathy. Nevertheless, the neglect is fatal. He cannot escape because he will not.

Natural Law, Degeneration.

September 15th.

THE Christian, like the poet, is born, not made.

Natural Law, Growth.

September 16th.

If a man could make himself humble to order, it might simplify matters; but we do not find that this happens. Hence death, death to the lower self, is the nearest gate and the quickest road to life.

Pax Vobiscum.

September 17th.

If I correspond with the world, I become worldly; if with God, I become divine.

Natural Law, Death.

September 18th.

John says of the world, not that it is wrong, but simply that it "passeth away." There is a great deal in the world that is delightful and beautiful; there is a great deal in it that is great and engrossing; but it will not last.

The Greatest Thing in the World.

September 19th.

THE penalty of evading self-denial also, is just that we get the lesser instead of the larger good. To refuse to deny one's self is just to be left with the self undenied. When the balance of life is struck, the self will be found still there.

Natural Law, Mortification.

September 20th.

How the love of God melts down the unlovely heart in man, and begets in him the new creature, who is patient, and humble, and gentle, and unselfish. And there is no other way to get it. There is no mystery about it. We love others, we love everybody, we love our enemies, because He first loved us.

The Greatest Thing in the World.

September 21st.

To know God, to be linked with God, to be linked with eternity — if this is not the "eternal existence" of biology, what can more nearly approach it?

Natural Law, Eternal Life.

September 22d.

From the very nature of salvation it is plain that the only thing necessary to make it of no effect is neglect.

Natural Law, Degeneration.

September 23d.

You are placed where you are, to help on *there* the kingdom of God. You cannot do that when you are old and ready to die. By that time your companions will have fought their fight, and lost or won.

If they lose, will you not be sorry that you did not help them? Will you not regret that only at the last you helped the kingdom of God? Perhaps you will not be able to do it then. And then your life has been lost indeed!

"*First!*"

September 24th.

It does not occur to us how natural the spiritual is. We still strive for some strange, transcendent thing; we seek to promote life by methods as unnatural as they prove unsuccessful; and only the utter incomprehensibility of the whole region prevents us seeing — what we already half suspect — how completely we are missing the road.

Natural Law, Environment.

September 25th.

STORMS and winds and calms are not accidents, but are brought about by antecedent circumstances. Rest and peace are but calms in man's inward nature, and arise through causes as definite and inevitable.

September 26th.

Is conformity to type produced by the matter or by the life, by the protoplasm or by the type? Is organization the cause of life, or the effect of it? It is the effect of it. Conformity to type, therefore, is secured by the type. Christ makes the Christian.

Natural Law, Conformity to Type.

September 27th.

REMAIN side by side with Him who loved us and gave Himself for us, and you too will become a permanent magnet, a permanently attractive force. That is the inevitable effect of love.

The Greatest Thing in the World.

September 28th.

IT is not a strange thing, then, for the soul to find its life in God. This is its native air. God, as the environment of the soul, has been from the remotest age the doctrine of all the deepest thinkers in religion.

Natural Law, Environment.

September 29th.

NATURE is always noiseless. All her greatest gifts are given in secret. And we

forget how truly every good and perfect gift comes from without and above, because no pause in her changeless beneficence teaches us the sad lesson of deprivation.

Natural Law, Environment.

September 30th.

Is life not full of opportunities for love? Every man and woman every day has a thousand of them.

The Greatest Thing in the World.

O SUNS and skies and clouds of June,
  And flowers of June together,
Ye cannot rival for one hour
  October's bright blue weather.

Helen Hunt Jackson.

October 1st.

To await the growing of a soul is an almost divine act of faith. How pardonable, surely, the impatience of deformity with itself, of a consciously despicable character standing before Christ, wondering, yearning, hungering, to be like that? Yet must one trust the process fearlessly, and without misgiving. "The Lord, the Spirit," will do His part.

The Changed Life.

October 2d.

Rest is the mood of the man who says with Browning, "God's in His heaven, all's right with the world."

Pax Vobiscum.

October 3d.

To watch uninterruptedly the same few yards of universe unfold its complex his-

tory; to behold the hourly resurrection of new living things, and miss no change or circumstance, even of its minuter parts; to look at all, especially the things you have seen before a hundred times, to do all with patience and reverence — this is the only way to study nature.

Tropical Africa.

October 4th.

As the highest of the sciences, theology, in the order of evolution, should be the last to fall into rank. It is reserved for it to perfect the final harmony.

Introduction, Natural Law.

October 5th.

THAT is the supreme work to which we need to address ourselves in this world, to learn love.

The Greatest Thing in the World.

October 6th.

If we try to influence or elevate others, we shall soon see that success is in proportion to their belief of our belief in them.

The Greatest Thing in the World.

October 7th.

If it makes no impression on a man to know that God will visit his iniquities upon him, he cannot blind himself to the fact that nature will.

Natural Law, Degeneration.

October 8th.

The influences we meet are not simply held for a moment and thrown off again into space. Each is retained where first it fell, and stored up in the soul forever.

The Changed Life.

October 9th.

THE Christian is a new man in Christ Jesus. He is rooted and built up in Christ; he abides in the vine, and so abiding, not toiling or spinning, brings forth fruit.

Natural Law, Growth.

October 10th.

WILL power does not change men. Time does not change men. Christ does. Therefore, "Let that mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus."

The Greatest Thing in the World.

October 11th.

IT is a wonderful thing that here and there in this hard, uncharitable world, there should still be left a few rare souls who think no evil. This is the great unworldliness.

The Greatest Thing in the World.

October 12th.

THE respect of another is the first restoration of the self-respect a man has lost; our ideal of what he is becomes to him the hope and pattern of what he may become.

The Greatest Thing in the World.

October 13th.

THE lesson of self-denial, that is to say of limitation, is *concentration.* Do not spoil your life, it says, at the outset with unworthy and impoverishing correspondences; and if it is growing truly rich and abundant, be very jealous of ever diluting its high, eternal quality with anything of earth.

Natural Law, Mortification.

October 14th.

FAITH is never opposed to reason in the New Testament; it is opposed to sight. You will find that a principle worth thinking over.

How to Learn How.

October 15th.

THE relation between the spiritual man and his environment is, in theological language, a filial relation. With the new spirit, the filial correspondence, he knows the Father — and this is life eternal.

Natural Law, Eternal Life.

October 16th.

LIVING in the spiritual world is just as simple as living in the natural world; and it is the same kind of simplicity, for it is

the same kind of world — there not two kinds of worlds.

Natural Law, Environment.

October 17th.

LOVE "thinketh no evil," imputes no motive, sees the bright side, puts the best construction on every action. What a delightful state of mind to live in! What a stimulus and benediction even to meet with it for a day.

The Greatest Thing in the World.

October 18th.

BELIEVERS and unbelievers have been compelled to acknowledge that Christianity holds up to the world the missing type, the perfect man.

Natural Law, Conformity to Type.

October 19th.

It is the deliberate verdict of the Lord Jesus that it is better not to live than not to love.

The Greatest Thing in the World.

October 20th.

Our companionship with Him, like all true companionship, is a spiritual communion. All friendship, all love, human and divine, is purely spiritual. It was after He was risen that He influenced even the disciples most.

The Changed Life.

October 21st.

One can never evacuate life of mysticism. Home is full of it, love is full of it, religion is full of it. Why stumble at

that in the relation of man to Christ which is natural in the relation of man to man?

The Changed Life.

October 22d.

THE natural life owes all to environment; so must the spiritual. Now, the environment of the spiritual life is God. As nature, therefore, forms the complement of the natural life, God is the complement of the spiritual.

Natural Law, Environment.

October 23d.

THAT is why you and I are in the world at all — not to prepare to go out of it some day, but to serve God actively in it *now*.

"First!"

October 24th.

We do not demand of nature directly to prove religion. That was never its function. Its function is to interpret. And this, after all, is possibly the most fruitful proof.

Introduction, Natural Law.

October 25th.

The spirit of Christ, interpenetrating ours, sweetens, purifies, transforms all. This only can eradicate what is wrong, renovate and regenerate and rehabilitate the inner man.

The Greatest Thing in the World.

October 26th.

What we are stretches past what we do, beyond what we possess.

The Greatest Thing in the World.

October 27th.

THE elimination of mystery from the universe is the elimination of religion. However far the scientific method may penetrate the spiritual world, there will always remain a region to be explored by a scientific faith.

Introduction, Natural Law.

October 28th.

THE infallible receipt for happiness, then, is to do good; and the infallible receipt for doing good is to abide in Christ.

Pax Vobiscum.

October 29th.

WHY a virtuous man should not simply grow better and better, until in his own right he enter the kingdom of God, is

what thousands honestly and seriously fail to understand. But if it be simply pointed out that this is the same absurdity as to ask why a stone should not grow more and more living, till it enters the organic world, the point is clear in an instant.

Natural Law, Biogenesis.

October 30th.

GUILELESSNESS is the grace for suspicious people. And the possession of it is the great secret of personal influence. In an atmosphere of suspicion men shrivel up; but in that atmosphere they expand, and find encouragement and educative fellowship.

The Greatest Thing in the World.

October 31st.

EVERYWHERE God creates, man utilizes. All the work of the world is merely a taking advantage of energies already there.

Natural Law, Growth.

THE wild November comes at last,
  Beneath a veil of rain ;
The night-wind blows its folds aside,
  Her face is full of pain.

A barren realm of withered fields,
  Bleak woods of fallen leaves,
The palest moon that ever dawned,
  The dreariest of eves.

Richard Stoddard.

November 1st.

SOULS are made sweet not by taking the acid fluids out, but by putting something in — a great love, a new spirit, the Spirit of Christ.

The Greatest Thing in the World.

November 2d.

THE most obvious lesson in Christ's teaching is that there is no happiness in having and getting anything, but only in giving.

The Greatest Thing in the World.

November 3d.

JOY lies in mere constant living in Christ's presence, with all that it implies of peace, of shelter, and of love.

Pax Vobiscum.

November 4th.

RELIGION out of its place in a human life is the most miserable thing in the world. There is nothing that requires so much to be kept in its place as religion, and its place is what? Second? Third? "*First!*"

"*First!*"

November 5th.

CHARACTER is a thing built up by slow degrees, hourly changing for better or for worse, according to the images which flit across it.

The Changed Life.

November 6th.

IF you cannot at once and always feel the play of His life upon yours, watch for it also indirectly. Christ is the Light of

the world, and much of His Light is reflected from things in the world — even from clouds.

The Changed Life.

November 7th.

EARNEST souls who are attempting sanctification by struggle, instead of sanctification by faith, might be spared much humiliation by learning the botany of the Sermon on the Mount.

Natural Law, Growth.

November 8th.

POLITENESS has been defined as love in trifles. Courtesy is said to be love in little things. And the one secret of politeness is to love.

The Greatest Thing in the World.

November 9th.

MANY a man thinks he is looking at truth when he is only looking at the spectacles he has put on to see it with. He is looking at his own spectacles.

How to Learn How.

November 10th.

THE peculiarity of ill-temper is that it is the vice of the virtuous. It is often the one blot on an otherwise noble character.

The Greatest Thing in the World.

November 11th.

MEN are not only mirrors, but these mirrors, so far from being mere reflectors of the fleeting things they see, transfer into their own inmost substance and hold in permanent preservation the things that they reflect.

The Changed Life.

November 12th.

THE work begun by nature is finished by the supernatural — as we are wont to call the higher natural. And as the veil is lifted by Christianity it strikes men dumb with wonder. For the goal of evolution is Jesus Christ.

Natural Law, Conformity to Type.

November 13th.

PUT a seal upon your lips, and forget what you have done. After you have been kind, after Love has stolen forth into the world and done its beautiful work, go back into the shade again, and say nothing about it.

The Greatest Thing in the World.

November 14th.

WHATEVER hopes of a "heaven" a neglected soul may have, can be shown to be an ignorant and delusive dream. How is the soul to escape to heaven if it has neglected for a lifetime the means of escape from the world and self? And where is the capacity for heaven to come from if it be not developed on earth?

Natural Law, Degeneration.

November 15th.

EACH man in the silence of his own soul must work out this salvation for himself with fear and trembling — with fear, realizing the momentous issue of his task; with trembling, lest before the tardy work be done the voice of death should summon him to stop.

Natural Law, Degeneration.

November 16th.

WORDS can scarcely ever be long impersonal. Christ Himself was a Word, a Word made flesh; make His words flesh; do them, live them, and you must live Christ.

The Changed Life.

ovember 17th.

LOVE hides even from itself. Love waives even self-satisfaction. "Love vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up."

The Greatest Thing in the World.

November 18th.

IT is not said that the character will develop in all its fulness in this life. That were a time too short for an evolution so magnificent. In this world only the cornless ear is seen; sometimes only the small yet still prophetic blade.

Natural Law, Grow

November 19th.

THE problem of the Christian life finally is simplified to this — man has but to preserve the right attitude. To abide in Christ, to be in position, that is all.

Natural Law, Growth.

November 20th.

THIS compatibility of ill-temper with high moral character is one of the strangest and saddest problems of ethics. The truth is, there are two great classes of sins — sins of the *body* and sins of the disposition.

The Greatest Thing in the World.

November 21st.

MARK well also the splendor of this idea of salvation. It is not merely final "safety," to be forgiven sin, to evade the

curse. It is not, vaguely, "to get to heaven." It is to be conformed to the Image of the Son. It is for these poor elements to attain to the supreme beauty.

Natural Law, Conformity to Type.

November 22d.

FRIENDSHIP is the nearest thing we know to what religion is.

The Changed Life.

November 23d.

CHRIST does not say it is wrong to love life; He simply says it is loss. Each man has only a certain amount of life, of time, of attention — a definite, measurable quantity. Therefore Christ says, "Hate life, limit life, lest you steal your love for it from something that deserves it more."

Natural Law, Mortification.

November 24th.

In the vocabulary of science eternity is only the fraction of a word. It means mere everlastingness. To religion, on the other hand, eternity has little to do with time. To correspond with "the true God and Jesus Christ" is eternal life.

Natural Law, Eternal Life.

November 25th.

Fruit first, joy next; the one the cause or medium of the other. Fruit-bearng is the necessary antecedent. Joy both the necessary consequent and the necessary accompaniment.

Pax Vobiscum.

November 26th.

Meantime let it be noted on what the Christian argument for immortality really rests. It stands upon the pedestal on

which the theologian rests the whole of historical Christianity, — the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Natural Law, Eternal Life.

November 27th.

TRY to give up the idea that religion comes to us by chance, by mystery, or by caprice. It comes to us by natural law, or by supernatural law; for all law is divine.

The Greatest Thing in the World.

November 28th.

PAUL does not summon us to give up our rights. Love strikes much deeper. It would have us not seek them at all, ignore them, eliminate the personal element altogether from our calculations.

The Greatest Thing in the World.

November 29th.

OBEY Him and you must love Him, Abide in Him and you must obey Him, Cultivate His friendship.

The Changed Life.

November 30th.

A YOKE is not an instrument of torture; it is an instrument of mercy. It is not a malicious contrivance for making work hard; it is a gentle device to make hard labor light. And yet men speak of the yoke of Christ as if it were a slavery, and look upon those who wear it as objects of compassion.

Pax Vobiscum.

Ah, distinctly I remember
It was in the bleak December,
And each separate dying ember
Cast its ghost upon the floor.

Edgar Allen Poe.

December 1st.

CHRISTIANITY as Christ taught it is the truest philosophy of life ever spoken. I care not who the person is, or through what vale of tears he has passed, or is about to pass, there is a new life for him along this path.

Pax Vobiscum.

December 2d.

BANISH forever from your minds the idea that religion is *subtraction.* It does not tell us to give things up, but rather gives us something so much better that they give themselves up.

"*First!*"

December 3d.

SUNLIGHT is stored in every leaf, from leaf through coal, and it comforts us thence when days are dark and we cannot see the

sun. Christ shines through men, through books, through history, through nature, music, art. Look for Him there.

The Changed Life.

December 4th.

A SCIENCE without mystery is unknown. A religion without mystery is absurd.

Introduction, Natural Law.

December 5th.

THERE is a sense of sight in the religious nature. Neglect this, leave it undeveloped, and you never miss it. You simply see nothing. But develop it and you see God. And the line along which to develop it is known to us. Become pure in heart. The pure in heart shall see God.

Natural Law, Degeneration.

December 6th.

In those days men were working their passage to heaven by keeping the Ten Commandments, and the hundred and ten other commandments which they had manufactured out of them. Christ said, I will show you a more simple way. If you do one thing you will do these hundred and ten things without ever thinking about them. If you *love* you will unconsciously fulfil the whole law.

The Greatest Thing in the World.

December 7th.

"In looking back upon my experience, that part of my life which stands out, and which I remember most vividly, is just that part that has had some conscious association with Christ. All the rest is

pale and thin, and lies like clouds on the horizon."

The Changed Life.

December 8th.

God has planned the world to incite men to intellectual activity.

How to Learn How.

December 9th.

The path beyond may lie in hopeless gloom; but it is not barred.

Natural Law, Eternal Life.

December 10th.

We have been accustomed to be told that the greatest thing in the religious world is faith. That great word has been the key-note for centuries of the popular

religion, and we have easily learned to look upon it as the greatest thing in the world. Well, we are wrong. "The greatest of these is love."

The Greatest Thing in the World.

December 11th.

If a man does not exercise his arm he develops no biceps muscle; and if a man does not exercise his soul he acquires no muscle in his soul, no strength of character, no vigor of moral fibre, no beauty of spiritual growth.

The Greatest Thing in the World.

December 12th.

That morality has a basis in human society, that nature has a religion, surely makes the death of the soul when left to itself all the more appalling. It means

that, between them, nature and morality provide all for virtue — except the life to live it.

Natural Law, Death.

December 13th.

It is a peculiarity of the sinful state that as a general rule men are linked to evil mainly by a single correspondence.

Natural Law, Mortification.

December 14th.

Imitation is mechanical, reflection organic. The one is occasional, the other organic. In the one case man comes to God and imitates Him; in the other, God comes to man and imprints Himself upon him.

The Changed Life.

December 15th.

CHRISTIANITY removes the attraction of the earth, and this is one way in which it diminishes men's burdens. It makes them citizens of another world.

Pax Vobiscum.

December 16th.

THE only greatness is unselfish love. Even self-denial in itself is nothing, is almost a mistake. Only a great purpose or a mightier love can justify the waste.

The Greatest Thing in the World.

December 17th.

To learn arithmetic at fifty is difficult — much more to learn Christianity. To learn simply what it is to be meek and lowly, in the case of one who has had

lessons in that in childhood, may cost him half of what he values most on earth.

Pax Vobiscum.

December 18th.

WHENEVER you attempt a good work you will find other men doing the same kind of work, and probably doing it better. Envy them not. Envy is a feeling of ill-will to those who are in the same line as ourselves, a spirit of covetousness and detraction.

The Greatest Thing in the World.

December 19th.

THE value of any theological question depends upon whether it has a sanctifying influence. If it has not, don't bother about it. Don't let it disturb your minds until

you have exhausted all truths that have sanctification within them.

How to Learn How.

December 20th.

It will never do to exaggerate one truth at the expense of another, and a truth may be turned into a falsehood very, very easily, by simply being too much enlarged or too much diminished.

How to Learn How.

December 21st.

Instead of telling people to give up things, we are safer to tell them to "seek first the kingdom of God," and then they will get new things and better things, and the old things will drop off of themselves. That is what is meant by the "new heart."

"First!"

December 22d.

CHRIST saw that men took life painfully. To some it was a weariness, to others a failure, to many a tragedy, to all a struggle and a pain. How to carry this burden of life had been the whole world's problem. It is still the whole world's problem. And here is Christ's solution: "Take my yoke and learn of Me, and you will find it easy."

Pax Vobiscum.

December 23d.

THE life of the senses, high and low, may perfect itself in nature. Even the life of thought may find a large complement in surrounding things. But the higher thought and the conscience and the religious life can only perfect themselves in God.

Natural Law, Environment.

December 24th.

ONLY one thing truly need the Christian envy, — the large, rich, generous soul which envieth not.

The Greatest Thing in the World.

December 25th.

AND there is a sense of touch to be acquired, such a sense as the woman had who touched the hem of Christ's garment. That wonderful electric touch called faith, which moves the very heart of God.

Natural Law, Degeneration.

December 26th.

WHEN shall we learn that the pursuit of holiness is simply the pursuit of Christ? Sanctity is in character, and not in moods. Divinity in our own plain, calm humanity, and in no mystic rapture of the soul.

The Changed Life.

December 27th.

THE true problem of the spiritual life may be said to be, do the opposite of neglect. It will just mean that you are so to cultivate the soul that all its powers will open out to God, and in beholding God be drawn away from sin.

Natural Law, Degeneration.

December 28th.

IT is a solemn moment when the slow-moving mind reaches at length the verge of its mental horizon, and, looking over, sees nothing more. Its straining makes the abyss but more profound. Its cry comes back without an echo. Where is the environment to complete this rational soul? Men either find one, — *One,* — or spend the rest of their days in trying to shut their eyes.

Natural Law, Environment.